THE

HOME FRIEND;

A WEEKLY MISCELLANY OF AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION.

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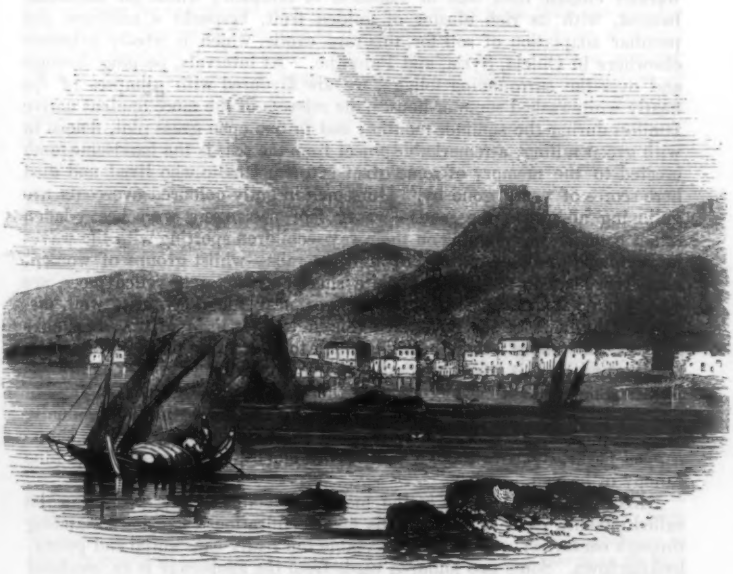
SEA-COASTS AND SHORES OF CILICIA.—No. V.



SIDON

IN 1289 the last act of barbarity towards unoffending Sidon was perpetrated by the Egyptian Mamelukes, under the order of the then Sultan of Egypt, who, to the end that it might no more afford a shelter to or be a favourite resort of Christians, caused Sidon to be destroyed, and the pretty gardens and dwelling-houses were laid waste by the hands of the ruthless Egyptian soldier, or razed to the ground with fire. Few cities lay claim to greater antiquity than Sidon: it is supposed to have been founded by Sidon, the eldest son of Canaan, and if this be the case, it is now nigh upon four thousand years old. A Phœnician colony afterwards existed at Sidon, and, after

the subversion of the Greek empire, Sidon fell into the hands of the Romans, who deprived it of its freedom to punish the citizens for their frequent revolts. From this date Sidon fell successively under the Saracen, Seljukian, Turkish, and Egyptian Sultans, till at the date above recorded, five hundred and sixty-three years ago, the last act of despoliation was committed, and, in 1841, Sidon, in common with Palestine and Syria, again fell under the sway of the Ottoman Empire, after having been ruled by Ibrahim Pasha for a few brief years. Coasting along from Latachia we successively sight and pass the small island of Ricoel, Tripoli, and Beyrout, the ancient Berytus, and after running a distance of about one hundred and thirty miles, cast anchor within shelter of a long low ledge of rocks exactly opposite to the modern town of Sidon. The prospect from our vessel is really charming: a pleasant, sandy-beached bay extends as far as the eye can reach to the left; close down to the beach side are dense plantations, mulberries, olives, and countless delicious fruit trees. An occasional tall palm, waving its graceful branches to and fro, gives evidence that we have now reached a warmer climate than that of Laodicia or Antioch; whilst the handsome banana, with its rich cluster of golden fruit, bespeaks a mildness and peculiar adaptation of soil for this rare exotic, which is wholly unknown elsewhere in Cilicia, Syria, and Palestine. At intervals, peeping through and over the surrounding foliage, we are favoured with glimpses of the neatly whitewashed summer-houses, the retreats of the more opulent native families during the summer months; and in one open grass plot, fenced in with green railing, a remarkable object from the sea, is the handsome tomb erected to the memory of some great Moslem fanatic who lived and died here scores of years gone by. Horsemen in gaily-coloured overcoats are galloping about on the sands—weary foot passengers with heavy-laden mules or donkeys, plodding on their way—children sporting with the waves or running in reckless pursuit of fugitive crabs—whilst groups of women, clad from head to toe in snow-white sheets, with closely-veiled faces, are congregated under some favourite tree, or near some favourite well, discussing the news of the day. All this in the hot light of sunshine looks gay and enlivening; but what adds much to the beauty of the prospect is, that beyond all this amalgamation of animal and vegetable life, nature has framed this enchanting picture with the lofty and interminable range of Lebanon mountains, dark and sombre-coloured down below, gradually verging into lighter hues as they rise, and terminating in perpetually snow-capped peaks. Above these a few vapory clouds, and then the wide blue canopy of heaven.

Directly opposite to us is the modern Sidon (if any place can be called modern, parts of whose walls and fortifications have been standing through centuries), a not only respectable but really substantial and pretty-looking town. Some two hundred yards from the anchorage is an insulated castle now in ruins, which was, we believe, greatly damaged by the shots from the British ships of war in the last expedition. This castle communicated with a fortress on the shore by means of a permanent bridge crossing over the sea, and sustained upon twelve or fifteen really handsomely-built arches; portions of this bridge have also gone to decay. Beyond this is the landing-place and the town itself. The town is built partly on a hill which was once well fortified, and whose summit is crowned with a castle now used as a monastery; to the left of the town the steep cliffs gradually increase in height till they abruptly terminate in a headland, beyond which nothing save a vast extent of ocean meets the eye. Having indulged in this

survey we descended into a little cockle shell of a boat, and were landed on a rather dangerous and slippery flight of steps, up which, however, with the assistance of native boatmen, we successfully scrambled. We entered the town through a massive gateway, under whose pleasant shade a number of old men were assembled smoking, drinking coffee, and playing at their favourite game of backgammon. The gates of the cities are still the favourite resort of the elders; here they receive homage and give wise counsellings. This practice reminds us forcibly of the usages of the patriarchs: when Israel was angered against David for mourning the death of his rebellious son, to pacify the people he went and sat at the city's gate. "And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate." (2 Sam. xix. 8.) The streets of Sidon are much assimilated to those of all other eastern towns; but the strange practice exists of causing the terraces of the upper stories of houses to extend across the street, supported on frequent substantial arches, which at the same time that they effectually exclude the heat and rain, also exclude the light, rendering it irksome and disagreeable in the extreme for uninitiated strangers to traverse the town from one quarter to another. Emerging from one of these tunnelled thoroughfares, we found ourselves opposite to the massive and handsome gateway leading into the French khan, originally a large caravansary for the accommodation of travellers and their beasts of burthen, but which, having fallen into the hands of the French Government, has been converted partly into a consular residence, partly a school-house, and partly for the accommodation of travellers. The large square contained within these walls has been set apart for the special cultivation of bananas, and here, indeed, they seemed to flourish with equal vigour to those we have often met in Madras and other Indian settlements; the buildings, which were of great antiquity, looked as solid and firm as in their pristine condition, and whilst examining the exquisitely-carved beams that supported the roof of one of the consular offices, we were forcibly reminded of the pleasant fact that we were actually scrutinising the workmanship of men, descendants of a people of whom the wise king Solomon had said, "There is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians." (1 Kings v. 6.) Greatly, however, have some amongst them degenerated in this art from the days of Hiram, king of Tyre, if we might be permitted to judge from the very modern gateposts which supported the doors of the various chambers, and which had been grotesquely notched in absurd imitation of the beforementioned beams. The interior of the houses at Sidon were cleanly, the people extremely hospitable; most of the native Christians had friends and connexions in those parts we had visited, and the very fact of coming from the same place was an introduction to their civilities. Whilst chatting in friendly converse with these people, the Arab captain came to warn us that that night the wind promised favourably for us to pursue our voyage; we thought of the days of the Apostle Paul, "And the next day we touched at Sidon, and Julius courteously entreated Paul and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself." (Acts xxvii. 3.) Although the vessel that Paul sailed in was evidently of larger construction than our own, still, from the number of other passengers, he must have been as cramped for room and miserably accommodated as we were in the smaller feleucah, and we knew, therefore, well how to appreciate the privilege accorded to the suffering Apostle on that occasion. There was this wide difference, however, in our situations, viz., that the Apostle cheerfully undertook and cheerfully bore perils and fatigues, privations, sufferings, and contempts, when

he had for object the honour and glory of the Lord; and that we, who were wholly unworthy, murmured at the smallest interruption to a successive enjoyment of pleasures, for, of a verity, in these more civilized days, the path of the traveller may be said to be strewed with flowers where it was even not very long since beset with thorns.

Sidon is now computed to contain upwards of 12,000 inhabitants, two-thirds of whom are Mahometans, the rest Christians and Jews, the number of Christians being much the more numerous of the two: they still continue to be a very industrious people, excelling in the manufacturing of silk shawls and gaily-ornamented silk toshia, a species of wide handkerchief bound round the red caps of the men, partly to more effectually protect their heads from the sun, and partly for ornament's sake. Besides a large quantity of silk annually shipped from this port, of late years grain has been exported by ship-loads into Algeria and some of the European ports; the anchorage for vessels of a large tonnage is very insecure during the winter months; an evil which would speedily be remedied were Sidon under the sway of any European power, because the natural shelter afforded by the rocks, which extend for some distance in a parallel with the town, might easily be brought to be the basework of a breakwater, such as, if skilfully built, would for ages resist the force of the waves. With these advantages, Sidon might very soon acquire for herself almost such a reputation as she possessed in the days of Solomon. Availing ourselves of the kind invitation of one of the European consuls, who placed horses at our disposal, we rode round the gardens in the environs. As we passed along the thickly-planted hedge, we observed the native gardeners busily occupied in gathering the yet unripe peaches and other fruits for the markets of Beyrout and Acre, as these were considered vastly superior in quality to those grown at either of the above places. Vast quantities of timber hewn in Lebanon was being transported to this place, some on the backs of camels and horses, whilst the more bulky sort was being trained down by yokes of oxen: all this we were given to understand was intended for new buildings in the town, both warehouses and private dwellings, a sure sign of the rising importance of the place, and one from which we may argue, taking Beyrout and Jaffa as precedents, that Sidon may in a few years rival any other sea-coast town in Syria with respect to population and commercial enterprise. Arriving at an elevation we had a fine view of the whole town, the bay and the shipping, with such a tranquil sea—so bright an evening sun—so cool an evening breeze, and the limpid water of a little streamlet trickling by as we alighted and, seating ourselves on some rough stones, quenched our thirst from that delicious spring and fell into a reverie. This was the same Sidon whose workmen helped to rear that Temple which was the glory of its age: over the very ground on which we were then seated, doubtless, countless timber had passed on its way down from the mountains to the fleets ready to convey it hence to Joppa; the mountains were the same, the plain was the same, the ocean the same, the workmanship of man only had fled; the dew of night and the pleasant breeze of evening, these were the same as in the city's most triumphant days; thousands of dead men slumbered in the plains below, their places only were vacant—for the wild flowers and the fruits, the stately tree and the bush, these were as plentiful and as luxuriant as ever.

A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND ITS GOLD REGIONS.—NO. XII.

ZOOLOGY—THE ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS, THEIR MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

THE Zoology of Australia is more singular than beautiful. It possesses no large animals, and but few varieties; and the attention is much more likely to be arrested by the peculiar habits and structure of the subjects themselves, than by the elegance of their forms, or the richness of their colours. As we have already mentioned, Australia has been termed the land of anomalies, and the zoology of the continent is certainly no exception to the fact; for Nature, in the creation of such forms as she appropriated to this region, seems to have determined to mark them with some peculiar character inconsistent with those rules she had adopted in the formation of all her other productions. That form, for instance, which in other parts of the world she has confined to the smallest races of quadrupeds—the rats and the dormice—is here bestowed upon the kangaroos, the largest tribe of four-footed animals yet discovered on this continent; but these wonderful creatures, instead of fabricating warm and skilful nests beneath the earth, for the protection of their young, in like manner to all other mouse-like quadrupeds, are provided with a natural nest in the folds of their own skin, where the young are sheltered and protected, until they are able to provide for themselves. The great kangaroo is, in fact, the largest and most typical quadruped of the whole Australasian range: the total absence of such animals as lions, tigers, deer, oxen, horses, bears—in short, of all those races spread over the rest of the world, is the most striking feature in the zoology of this continent. It is further remarkable that nearly all the quadrupeds either actually belong, or are intimately related, to the *Glires* of Linnæus. Two-thirds of the Australian quadrupeds make their way by springing in the air. It may also be mentioned that out of fifty-eight species of mammalia found in Australia, forty-six are peculiar to it, and twelve only are found in other regions. Even out of these twelve, four are seals, and five are whales. As already indicated, however, kangaroos are almost the only important animals: there are many varieties of this animal, from the "kangaroo mouse," which is about the size of a small rabbit, to the "forester," which stands from four to five feet high. The bound of the kangaroo is prodigious, sometimes exceeding twenty paces; and this can be kept up for a considerable time, so as to enable the animal to distance the swiftest greyhound. Within the marsupial pouch the careful mother shelters her helpless young, letting them out by day to graze on the tender herbage, or carefully conveying them across rivers or through forests, when pursued by her enemies, until they are able to provide for their own sustenance and safety. The kangaroo has rarely more than two at a birth, and is an extremely timid animal, unless when hard pressed for life, when it will set its back against a tree, boldly await the dogs, and rip them up with its hind claws, or give them a formidable squeeze with its fore-arms, until the blood gushes from the hound's nostrils. Sometimes the poor creature will take to the water, and drown every dog that comes near it. It is, however, extremely docile, and, with a little trouble, can be brought to follow its owner about the house or garden like a dog, eat out of the hand, and made as tractable and interesting as any other "pet" animal.

One of the most remarkable animals in Australia is the platypus (*Ornithorhyncus paradoxus*)—it has four legs, but has a bill exactly

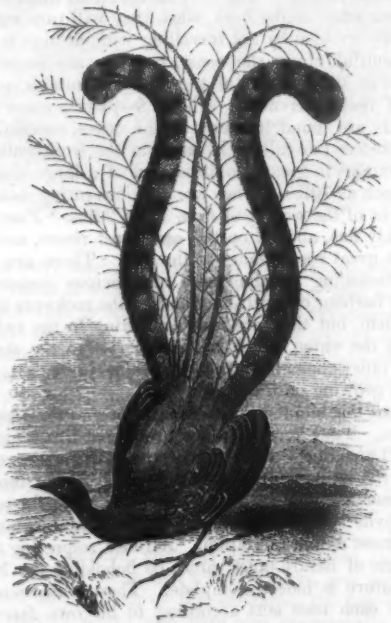
similar to that of a duck: lays eggs, and suckles its young. Its length from beak to tail is about fourteen inches, the circumference of the body eleven inches, beak two and a half, tail four and a half. It resembles the otter, though of inferior size; is covered with a very thick, soft, and beaver-like fur; the head is flat and rather small; and the legs short, terminating in a broad web, which on the fore feet extends nearly an inch beyond the claws. It is very shy, and only found in unfrequented places. It swims low in the water, frequently in company with the musk duck, and dives very rapidly. This very singular animal exhibits more decided indications of a union between the two great divisions of the vertebrata, than any quadruped yet known.

Birds are numerous, of great variety, and often of a beautiful plumage. The Emu, or cassowary, is one of the most singular; its covering is more like hair than feathers, and from its being confined to the earth, the creature partakes little of the character of a bird: it is extremely fleet, outstripping the swiftest dog, and it kicks with such violence as to be able to break a man's leg: it is, however, easily tamed, and becomes as domestic as a dog. From six to eighteen eggs have been found in one nest, and they are of stronger flavour than those of the ostrich. A portion of the emu is considered good eating, the flesh tasting like beef; but other portions are very oily and disagreeable. It is rapidly disappearing from the occupied districts.

Emus.

The gigantic crane is a stately bird, about six feet high, of a pale ash colour, with a reddish tinge on the head: it is frequently seen on the borders of lakes and rivers, where also the black swan is found. The bus-

tard, or native turkey, weighs from fifteen to eighteen pounds, and is good eating. Eagles and hawks are numerous: some of them white and very large, the eagle-hawk measuring nine feet from wing to wing, and feathered to the toes. The pigeons and doves are certainly the most beautiful in the world; the general tint of their plumage is a rich green, variegated with red, purple, or yellow about the head and breast; but others occur of a brown colour, relieved by spots on the wings of the richest colours, equal in brilliancy to the finest gems. The beautiful parrots, parrakeets, and cockatoos deserve notice also from their variety and brilliancy of plumage, their large numbers, as also from the facility with which the latter in particular are domesticated and taught to imitate sounds. Some of the cockatoos are of a milk-white, others black, richly variegated on the tail with red, and with superb crests. There are a large number of other extremely interesting birds, which it is not within our limits to enumerate or describe. We may, however, spare space for an illustration of that singular and beautiful bird, the lyre-tailed pheasant.



LYRE-TAILED PHEASANT.

Insects are very numerous, and of every variety, and have long afforded to the entomologist a wide field for examination. Locusts are common in some parts of the continent; butterflies are neither plentiful nor beautiful; of bees there are three kinds, the principal of which is not larger than a common-sized winged ant, and all of them are destitute of stings; these careful providers form their nests in the hollows of trees and rocks, and produce a large quantity of delicious wild honey. English bees have been

introduced, and are multiplying fast. Ants exhibit several varieties, of which the largest, called the "gigantic," measures nearly an inch in length: their mounds are not raised so high as those of the ants in Africa, but they are more solid and compact. Flies are a great nuisance in summer, and one species in particular, called the blow-fly, taints and putrifies everything it touches. Mosquitoes have a particular partiality for new-comers, whom they attack for a short time with more than special eagerness; but they are gradually disappearing before civilization. Spiders are very large; one species in particular makes its nest in the earth five or six inches in depth, and with a door over it which is always left open when he is at home and "on hospitable cares intent."

Reptiles are not at all in such numbers as are to be found in marshy countries. There are several varieties of snakes, a few of which are poisonous. They are attacked and killed by the settlers wherever they are seen, and are gradually becoming scarce in the settled districts. They are generally small, and always glide away as rapidly as possible at the approach of a human footsep. The only danger from them is by accidentally treading on them when in the bush, when they will turn and bite; but this is a danger easily avoided by not travelling without high boots.

Fish are plentiful along the coast, but few are found in the rivers, especially those on the east side of the Blue Mountains, owing perhaps to the rapidity of their currents. Whales frequently come into the bays to calve; and seals are found in many of the coves, especially to the southward. The cod-fish (so called) is taken in the fresh-water rivers west of the Blue Mountains in great quantities and of a large size, some of them weighing as much as 70lbs. They are delicious eating, as are also the eels, which are caught of the weight of from 12 to 20lbs. Perch, covered with scales and prickly fins, abound on the east coast rivers, and in flavour and juiciness bear a great resemblance to the sole. There are many varieties of other fish, including an abundance of delicious oysters, which are so plentiful in the harbour of Port Jackson that the rocks are not only literally covered with them, but they are found adhering to the twigs of the trees which overhang the water, which has given rise to the statement that in addition to the other anomalies which Australia presents to us, the oysters are there found growing on the trees.

The aboriginal inhabitants of Australia belong to the class of Papuas, or oriental negroes. They have the thick prominent lips, white teeth, and, in Van Diemen's Land, the woolly hair of the African negro; but the nose is less flat, and the limbs much leaner. The theories of those philosophers who have represented man in the savage state as in the perfection of his being, and his evils as arising from the artificial arrangements of society, find here their most ample refutation. All idea respecting the fabled innocence of the state of nature must vanish on beholding the New Hollander. The state of nature is indeed complete. There is no society, no government, no laws; each man acts according to his own fancy and caprice. The arts of life exist in their first and rudest elements. The people were found unacquainted either with planting, or with the breeding of tame animals, and deriving their support solely from hunting and fishing. Those in the interior subsist by collecting the roots and berries which grow spontaneously, pursuing and laying snares for the squirrel and opossum, and even devouring worms and grubs that are found in the trunks of trees. Their huts are of the rudest possible description, resembling the dens of wild beasts; they consist often of the bark of a single tree, bent in the

middle and placed on its two ends in the ground, affording shelter to only one miserable tenant; at other times two or three pieces of bark arranged upon a few sticks stuck into the ground, will afford a hovel into which six or eight persons may creep; these habitations they call "gunyahs."

NATIVE GUNYAH.

They often, however, content themselves with cavities in or under the shelter of rocks, which in well-chosen situations form their most comfortable abodes. They are able to strike fire by rubbing two pieces of dry grass-tree together; and they light their fire, when they require one for cooking, opposite to the entrance of their gunyah, which they take care to construct so that the smoke is driven in the opposite direction; should the wind shift, they immediately, and in a very few minutes' time, alter the position of their habitation accordingly.

They roam about entirely naked, with the exception of a girdle round the middle, and occasionally a skin thrown over the shoulders. In the neighbourhood of the towns, however, they are furnished by the Government with blankets, and also occasionally obtain from the settlers articles of left-off clothing, in which they envelope themselves. They are by no means insensible to ornament, and will coat their skin thickly with fish oil, regardless of the horrible stench which it emits, and adorn themselves with such trinkets as the teeth of the kangaroo, the jaw-bones of large fishes, and the tails of dogs; and they also occasionally thrust a bone through the nose, which they believe to be efficacious in keeping away the "deble debel."

The females are mere slaves, doing all the work which is essential for their "lords'" comfort; and female children are looked upon with contempt, and very frequently destroyed, which is one great reason for the gradual diminution of their numbers. The ladies generally carry their infants in a bag thrown over the shoulder, but they occasionally dispense with the bag, and simply throw the child itself over the shoulder, holding

it by one leg, while the head of the "lovely innocent" hangs down at the back, swinging about like a human pendulum. At the age of fourteen or fifteen they attain puberty; and the young men undergo the important ceremony of having two of the front teeth of the upper jaw extracted or knocked out, which has the effect, according to their notions, of making "men" of them; and as a consolation for this barbarous infliction, they are then at liberty to take a wife: which latter affair is arranged by the youth going to a neighbouring tribe, and on seeing a damsel to suit his taste, commencing his courtship at once; this he does in a summary manner, by greeting his intended with a blow or two with a "waddy" upon the skull, which in these people is so remarkably thick that but little permanent or injurious effect is produced by the operation. Should a blow or two not be sufficient, he continues the process until his "ladye love" becomes insensible; he then seizes her, and drags her to his own habitation, and the "happy couple" are forthwith united. Should he take a fancy to more than one, their laws do not forbid him to indulge himself with half-a-dozen or more, but the former ones are generally allotted to other less fortunate youths, who may be lingering in single blessedness from the scarcity of the "sex."

The men are first-rate shots and good riders, and their senses of sight, hearing, and smelling are so acute, that they are able to track a person over hard rocky ground where no trace whatever would present itself to an European eye—to tell whether anything is moving for an immense distance round, and they can tell by smelling at a tree whether an opossum is lodged in its trunk or branches. They have a few very peculiar superstitious notions, the principal one of which must evidently have been only of modern origin: it is, that after death they immediately reappear on the earth as white people; to use their own expression, "they fall down black fellows and jump up white fellows;" and many amusing instances are related by the colonists of their having been continually pestered by the affectionate embracings of some native "mamma," who fancied she had traced in their lineaments the features of some son or other relative she had recently lost. They are exceedingly indolent, and it is with great difficulty that any of them can be persuaded to perform the simplest kind of labour, although they are aware of the value of money and anxious to possess it. To such an extent is this carried, that even at the gold diggings, they will stand by calmly looking on at the energetic operations of the miners, and with a perfect knowledge of the value of the metal they are procuring, but without evidencing the smallest inclination to participate in the search. Neither will they, if any colonist should take the trouble to teach them the art of planting food, either believe in his instructions, or wait the time necessary for the attainment of the product. Dr. Mackenzie mentions, as a proof of this, that a friend of his gave some potato-cuttings to one of them, telling him that if he planted them he would soon obtain young potatoes from them. The black fellow went and put them beneath the ground, and watched them carefully for two days, at the end of which he went to his instructor, and told him with much chagrin that the potatoes had not yet "jumped up," and inquired if they would "jump up" in two days more, and on being told it would probably be as many days as he had fingers, he at once dug up the cuttings and ate them, saying that "white fellow was all gammon." None of the efforts which have yet been made appear to have had the effect of giving them the slightest relish or desire for the comforts or

advantages of civilization;—the blacks who lounge about the streets of Sydney never, in any instance, appear to emulate anything but the vices of the lowest class of society; they are servile, cringing, cunning, and dissipated whenever they have the opportunity of indulging in dissipation.

Widely different, however, from these, are the wild inhabitants of the forest, roaming at freedom over the immeasurable plains, bearing on their shoulders their weapons of war or of chase, yielding submission to no human power, and with a characteristic elasticity of movement, firmness of step, and dignity of gait, proclaiming, not in words but in every gesture, their hereditary rights and independence.

Dr. Mackenzie mentions it as his decided opinion, that if any remnant of the race can be saved from that gradual process of extermination to which they appear at present doomed, and brought over to a civilized condition, it can be only by the efforts of some of those missionaries of apostolic zeal, unconquerable enterprise, and imperturbable self-denial, who, like Mr. Elliott with the Red Indians of North America, will join themselves to the camps of the aborigines, study their language, follow them in their wanderings, live on roots, grubs, and opossums like themselves, and gradually make an impression upon their feelings, habits, and manners, until they begin to recognise the truth of Christianity and the benefits of a civilized state of existence.

THE BELL-ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

This celebrated structure, which has been called the Eddystone of Scotland, is one well worthy our notice, whether we consider the important aid it lends to navigation, the beauty of its architecture, or the interesting details attendant on its erection, which have been so well related by the skilful architect, Mr. Stevenson.

The rock on which this lighthouse stands is one of those terrors to mariners, so situated in the German Ocean as to be a complete obstacle to the safe entrance of any foreign vessel into the Friths of Forth and Tay: it is at the same distance from the shore as the Eddystone reef, but differs from the houserock at that place by being, at high water, so completely covered, that it does not, like the Eddystone, form a beacon of itself during the day, and consequently the reef of rocks is justly considered to be the most dangerous one on the whole coast of Britain. Fatal, indeed, has it proved to many a gallant ship whose destiny has been well ascertained; but a fearful list might be added of missing vessels who have here met their doom unnoticed and unknown.

"In ocean's deepest, darkest bed,
The secret slumbers with the dead;
This sole memorial of their lot
Remains—they were, and they are not."

The Bell Rock has also been called the Scape and Inchcape Rock, either from the word scalp, a kind of shell-fish, or from the resemblance it may at one time have borne to a skep or bee-hive; and as the term cape applied to a sunken rock seems a strange one, we may suppose that Inchcape is also a corruption of the term Scape, by which it is still distinguished in all old sea charts. Its present name of Bell Rock is said to have arisen from the Abbots of Aberbrothwick having caused a bell to be so hung upon it, that the tides brought certain machinery into action which rung the bell,

as a warning to mariners. Tradition tells us that this benevolent apparatus was wantonly destroyed by a Dutch pirate, who, to complete the interest of the tale, was afterwards lost with his ship and crew upon the sunken rock he had so inhumanly deprived of its beacon. It does not, however, appear probable that any machinery of the kind could have been brought to be useful in such a locality, and its removal is not only disgraceful to humanity, but incompatible with the veneration entertained by the seamen of all nations for such landmarks. The tradition has had its use in furnishing Mr. Southey with materials for one of his popular ballads, called Sir Ralph the Rover.

The name of the Bell Rock most probably took its rise in a far more natural way, from the shape of that part of the rock which has now been removed to make room for the lighthouse, and which, at low water, bore a resemblance to both a bee-skep and a bell. It measured about 427 feet in length by 230 in breadth, and the baneful effects of such an obstruction to navigation had been long and severely felt, not only by the commercial interests of the Friths, but by all vessels navigating the North Sea and the German Ocean; for not only were many vessels lost upon the rock itself, but far greater numbers were cast away upon the neighbouring shores in endeavouring to avoid it, or foundered at sea, in consequence of keeping out too long, from the terror of approaching a coast where such a sunken enemy lay in their course. The great inlets for shipping in storms upon the eastern coasts of Great Britain are the Thames, the Frith of Forth, and the Murray Frith. To these, vessels resort in storms from the north,

east, and south-east, and in such cases the Frith of Forth is in a peculiar manner a place of safety; and it is a melancholy fact, that in the December storm of 1799 upwards of seventy vessels were lost on the eastern coast of Scotland, many of which might, in all human probability, have been saved, but from the dread of the Bell Rock preventing them from seeking refuge in the Frith of Forth. It is, therefore, no matter of surprise to find that the erection of a lighthouse on the rock, to serve as a beacon by day and a warning light by night, became a matter of general as well as local importance; and though the construction of such an edifice, on a foundation twelve feet under water during the ordinary rise of spring tides, would be one requiring great skill, anxiety, and a large outlay of money, all obstacles were finally overcome, and in 1806 an Act of Parliament was obtained, enabling the Board for the Erection of Lighthouses in Scotland to levy duties and borrow money for the purpose. Various plans were now submitted to the consideration of the Board, one of which proposed a building to be erected on pillars of cast-iron, another on those of stone; but the Board, having directed Mr. Stevenson to survey the rock, he was engaged to build a lighthouse of stone, on the plan of the Eddystone. The Act of Parliament having provided for a loan of 25,000*l.*, and the Board having surplus duties to the amount of 20,000*l.*, they were thus in possession of a fund of 45,000*l.*, to which might be added the surplus duties expected to arise during the progress of the work from the exhibition of a floating light on the spot. This beacon, a Dutch fishing vessel, taken during the war, was moored at the distance of about two miles from the rock, answering the double purpose of a floating light and a tender for the workmen employed in the erection of the lighthouse. It was rigged with three masts, on each of which a large copper lantern, containing ten lamps, with small silver-plated reflectors, were made so to collapse and traverse, that the light was seen in every direction; but although the vessel was fitted out with every attention to stability, it was thought necessary to give a warning to mariners not to trust the beacon in very tempestuous weather, as, from the peculiarly exposed situation, it was liable to break from the firmest moorings.

The crew was necessarily a strong one, as after every gale of wind the moorings required to be lifted and examined, to ascertain that all was right, and a master, eight able seamen, and a boy, were not too many for the important task. On the 9th of July, the Pharos, as it was called, was towed out to its destination, and when it arrived, two of the crew, appearing to be for the first time fully aware of the probable danger of the service, deserted, with all due speed. Their place was, however, soon supplied by more enterprising men, and such, indeed, were really required, as the task of mooring the vessel was one of tedious and perplexing difficulty.

A workyard for preparing granite and other building materials was provided at Arbroath, and when these were completed under Mr. Stevenson's personal superintendence, he embarked on the 17th of August 1807, and began the work upon the Bell Rock.

The first employment was to bore a sufficient number of holes for the support of a temporary residence on the rock for the workmen during the summer months, such a construction being found indispensably necessary, not only to give confidence to the workmen while upon the rock, in case of accident to any of the attendant boats, but also to give greater facility to the work. Though firm, the building was very simply constructed of beams of timber fifty feet in length, ranged in a circular manner, forming a

diameter of thirty-six feet on the rock, and meeting together at the top; on these a wooden house was erected, consisting of three floors: the first was occupied as a cooking-house and provision store; the second, which was much encumbered with the meeting in a point of the principal beams, formed only the cabins of the foreman and engineer; the upper, or third compartment, was wholly converted into a barrack-room, in which three tiers of beds were fixed, making it capable of holding about thirty artificers. Below these apartments, and at the height of twenty-five feet from the rock, a floor of a more temporary nature was fixed, where the mortar was prepared, and which also served as a forge and workshop for the smiths to sharpen their tools, &c. On several occasions during the progress of the work, the violence of the sea lifted up this floor, when not only the lime, casks, lighter, apparatus, &c., and the floor itself, were sent adrift, but even the smiths' anvils and implements were to be sought on the rock.

After one of the gales of a preceding night, Mr. Stevenson mentions his great uneasiness at seeing on the following morning, as they approached the rock, what appeared to him to be a human figure hanging over one of the ledges of the rock, in a most perilous position. Fearing to find the scene of their labours further strewed with such melancholy evidences of the perilous position of the Bell Rock, but without communicating his apprehensions, he hastily steered for the point, and had the inexpressible comfort of finding that he had only been deceived by the peculiar situation and aspect of the smith's anvil. Notwithstanding the perils to which it was exposed, this barrack continued for five years to be useful as a shelter, and none of the beams were shaken, although at every return of the tide they were immersed from eight to twelve feet in water. Before it was constructed, the labours and hazards of the first season were very considerable, as the workmen had, at the time of every tide, to go to and from the Pharos to the rock in row boats, each containing sixteen people, and on many occasions, when the wind shifted suddenly, it was most difficult to get back. The act of getting in or out of a boat to the Pharos was a work at all times of peril, from the rolling of the vessel. A man might often be seen clinging to the gunwale of the Pharos, at one moment close to his boat, at the next so high above, as to see his comrades in the boat on the other side; in fact, it required both courage and agility to leap into the boats at all.

After a time, however, the men became fond enough of the duty to row in the boats against each other, an emulation which, as well as boat-racing for amusement, Mr. Stevenson wisely encouraged, for dreary and monotonous indeed was the life led by the seamen on board the Pharos. Riding at anchor in the open sea, without the company of shipping or the pleasure of intercourse with the shore, a place visited but once in turn during every six weeks, nothing but the dread of impressment enabled these able-bodied seamen to endure their position with any degree of patience. The perils of the first season were also sufficient, one would suppose, to have quite disheartened the workmen employed, as they were frequently exposed to the risk of losing their lives by such occurrences as the following:—On the 2nd of September 1807, while the artificers, thirty-two in number, were busily occupied on the rock, a gale arose, during which the Smeaton tender broke adrift from the moorings, thus leaving them upon the insulated rock, which, in the progress of the flood tide, would be laid under water to the depth of at least twelve feet in a stormy sea. There were at this time but two boats attached to the rock, whose complement even in fair weather did not exceed twenty-four sitters; but to row to the Pharos with so much

wind and so heavy a sea, a complement of eight men for each boat was as much as could possibly be attempted, so that at least half of those employed on the rock must be left to destruction. Under these circumstances, had Mr. Stevenson ventured to despatch one of the boats, in expectation of either working the Smeaton sooner up to the rock, or in hopes of getting her boat brought to the assistance of the rest, it would have given an immediate alarm to the artificers, each of whom would have insisted upon taking to his own boat, and thus leaving the eight workmen belonging to the Smeaton to their fate. The unfortunate circumstance of the Smeaton being adrift was, for a considerable time, known only to Mr. Stevenson and to the landing-master, who removed to the further part of the rock, keeping his eye steadily fixed upon the progress of the vessel. While the artificers continued at work, chiefly in kneeling and sitting postures, excavating the rock or boring with their tools, and whilst the noise of their numerous hammers and the sound of the smith's anvil continued, the state of things did not appear so appalling. But at length the water began to rise upon those who were at work on the lower parts of the beacon, and from the heavy run of the sea the forge fire was extinguished sooner than usual. The volumes of smoke ceased to obscure the view from the rock, and after having had about three hours' work, the men prepared as usual to make towards their respective boats for their jackets and stockings; to their dismay they then discovered the fact that but two boats were to be found, the third being adrift with the Smeaton. Not a word was uttered by any one, but each, with looks full of perplexity, appeared to be silently calculating the number of the party. The landing-master, fearing that blame might be attached to him for allowing the boat to leave the rock, kept at a distance, whilst Mr. Stevenson stood on a part of the rock, marking the progress of the Smeaton, and the workmen either fixed their eyes upon the drifted vessel or looked steadfastly at their leader. "All this," says Mr. Stevenson, "passed in perfect silence, and the melancholy solemnity of the group will never be effaced from my mind." With his usual energy he did not long remain inactive, and was about to address the workmen on the expediency of stripping off their clothing, that they might thus, when the highest parts of the rock should be under water, be prepared to swim, and that a specified number of men should go into each boat, and the remainder hang by the gunwales, while the boats were gently rowed towards the Smeaton, as the course of the Pharos lay rather to the windward of the rock. "But," continues Mr. Stevenson, "when I attempted to speak, my mouth was so parched that my tongue refused utterance, and I now learned by experience that the saliva is as necessary for speech as the tongue itself. I turned to one of the pools on the rock and drank a little salt water, which produced immediate relief." At this critical moment, greatly to the delight of all, some one called out "A boat! a boat!" and on looking round a large one was seen through the haze making towards the rock, and the party were thus mercifully rescued from their perilous situation. The effect of this accident was that when the bell rung next morning and the workmen were mustered, out of twenty-six only eight besides the foreman and seamen appeared on deck, to accompany the engineer to the rock. "The use of argument to persuade the men to embark in cases of this kind would have been out of place, as it is not only discomfort, or even the risk of the loss of a limb, but life itself, that becomes the question." The boats proceeded to their destination with the eight willing workmen; four hours were passed upon the rock, and, on returning to the Pharos, the

eighteen men who had remained behind seemed so ashamed of their cowardice, that on the next journey to the rock they were the first to embark. This appears to have been the only instance of shrinking from duty, though shortly after the whole party on board the Pharos was exposed to a fearful gale, which not only kept them from the rock for ten days, but exposed them to imminent danger. The floating light broke adrift, and though no damage was sustained in consequence, the circumstance imparted a character of extreme hazard to a life on board, and it was with difficulty that seamen were found to undertake the duties of manning it. Yet, although the sea often wore a very alarming appearance, the beacon was a great means of divesting it of its terrors. From the excellent guide it had already proved to shipping, old and experienced sailors were gradually induced to cruise with much confidence both by day and night in the vicinity of that rock which had once been to them an object of dread. The beams of the beacon had also their effect on the workmen, giving them a stimulus to work, that so important a benefit might be the more permanently secured. "Every heart and hand was anxiously and zealously engaged, for the artificers wrought at the beacon as for life; or somewhat like men stopping a breach in a wall to keep out an overwhelming flood."

HISTORY OF CAOUTCHOUC.—No. II.

Caoutchouc continued long to remain an article chiefly confined to the cabinets of the curious. Its extraordinary properties were the admiration of a few learned persons, for the greater part of the last century, and there appeared little prospect of its ever becoming applicable to the purposes of ordinary life. It was known hitherto only as a product of Cayenne in Guiana, and other countries on the eastern coast of South America, and was called from its properties of removing marks of dirt or pencils upon paper, by the English, India-rubber, by the French, *peau de nègre*. Much investigation was directed into its properties by the scientific, as it was easily perceived that, could it be made amenable to treatment, it gave promise of becoming one of the most useful and valuable substances. The attention of the French chemists was largely occupied with a variety of experiments, undertaken with a view to discover a menstruum in which this intractable material might be made to dissolve. In the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences are repeated accounts given of the difficulties of the undertaking, and of the limited degree of success which attended it. The grand object was to discover some fluid which would restore the solid caoutchouc to the same, or a similar state of fluidity, with that possessed by it on its first flowing from the tree. M. Macquer, after a prolonged series of experiments, discovered that caoutchouc was soluble in the purest ether, at the ordinary temperature, and the solution was transparent, and of an amber colour. Upon this solution being thrown into water, it was decomposed, and there rose to the surface a thin pellicle of caoutchouc, possessing most of the properties of that substance in its natural state. M. Macquer was successful also in applying this solution to the manufacture of tubes and other instruments. In order to form it into small tubes, he adopted the following ingenious method. He formed his mould of wax of the desired shape and size, and then dipping a pencil into the ethereal solution of caoutchouc, he daubed the mould with it till he had covered it over with a coat of caoutchouc of sufficient thickness. The whole piece was then thrown into hot water, by the heat of which the wax was soon

melted, and rose to the surface, leaving the caoutchouc tube completely formed behind it. Mr. Grossart, a subsequent experimenter, states that he succeeded very well in employing the essential oils of turpentine and lavender as a solvent for caoutchouc, and thus forming it into tubes, or giving it any shape that might be desired. M. Grossart, by an unaccountable perversion of ideas, declares that he succeeded in dissolving it by means of water. An examination of his experiment proves that he mistook the effects of heat upon this substance, for the softness of incipient solution. No experiment has succeeded in restoring caoutchouc to its original fluid state, the state in which it flows from the tree.

Meanwhile, other sources of this substance were discovered. It was heard of in Guinea, in China, in Sumatra, and in many of the East Indian islands and provinces. As its production became more universally known, its use became also more universal, and it ceased to be regarded as a curiosity. It was now beginning to be imported from America, and subsequently it formed an article of East Indian commerce, from which regions at the present time large supplies are derived. About the end of the last century an English gentleman—a surgeon—Mr. Howison, endeavoured to render caoutchouc more universally applicable to the wants of civilized life, and being then a resident in one of our East Indian settlements, he undertook a series of experiments with this view. He discovered a tree whose milky juice yielded it in abundance. He contrived to make boots, gloves, and a number of articles of dress by first forming moulds of wax of the required shape, and then coating them over with the liquid juice gathered for this purpose, and preserved in hermetically-closed bottles, by which for a short time it could be kept in a liquid state. He also dipped in the juice an elastic cloth, hoping to be able to produce a waterproof fabric. This experiment proved perfectly successful, and he had the novel gratification of preparing for himself a complete waterproof suit of clothes, sufficiently elastic for comfort and wholly impervious to moisture. These experiments were sufficiently singular in their results to attract notice, and much interest on the subject of caoutchouc was excited. Dr. Roxburgh being at the same time in India, his attention was drawn to the subject, and he published a botanical account of the tree yielding the substance. Some years later, a friend sent this gentleman a vessel called a jurong, filled with honey in the very state in which it had been brought from the Pundua or Juntipoor mountains north of Silhet. This vessel was a common, or rather coarse basket in the shape of a four-cornered, wide-mouthed bottle, made of split rattans, several species of which grow in abundance amongst the above-mentioned mountains, and contained about two gallons. Dr. Roxburgh's friend drew his attention to the fact that the inside of the vessel was smeared over with the juice of a tree which grows in the mountains. He was therefore more anxious to examine the nature of this lining than the quality of the honey. The jurong was emptied out, and, to the gratification of Dr. Roxburgh, he found it very perfectly lined with a thin coat of caoutchouc. On inquiry, the tree yielding it was discovered, growing in the chasms of the rocks in mountain declivities. The milk obtained by incision, while in its recent, undecomposed state, was employed by the natives of these mountains—in other respects a most barbarous and ignorant race—to coat the inside of such of their rude utensils as were employed to hold fluids. The same substance in its solid state supplied them with candles. They informed Dr. Roxburgh that they did not know of any mode by which it could be dissolved after it had once solidified.

While fresh sources of this wonderful substance were being continually discovered, the problem of its solution remained still unresolved. A little consideration and microscopic examination of the fresh juice might have informed those who sought to restore it from its indurated to its former milk-like condition, of the futility of the attempt. They might as easily have turned the curd of milk back to its original state in the fresh fluid, as thus affect caoutchouc. As we shall again have occasion to observe, the coagulation and separation of the liquid caoutchouc is a process which nothing can prevent, and it were as rational to attempt the re-solution of the coagulum of the blood, and the restoration of its separated constituents to their pristine state, as to hope to effect a similar change when caoutchouc is once separated into clot and whey. The experiment was, however, the chimera of many ardent minds at the commencement of the present century. If success were possible, the reward was so certain to follow the discovery, that no wonder that many eager speculative chemists threw all their energies into the investigation. We have been told of one, a young student of medicine, who, bent upon the search, hired a lonely attic in a poor quarter of a great city, and there laboured hard to accomplish the object he had in view. It was of necessity that such attempt should be wholly without success—caoutchouc could never be made to return to its once milky state. The investigation was not unlike that after the philosopher's stone. All these experiments were not, however, without some fruit. The lonely student in his garret is said to have been the inventor of one of the most important methods of treating caoutchouc now employed. A cheap, abundant, and effectual solvent was discovered by him, and by others about the same time; and the attempt to reduce solid caoutchouc to its original state of milk was finally abandoned. The medium employed for this purpose was what is commercially known as naphtha, or spirit of tar; and this is now in common use at the present day. For some time, however, no progress was made in the manufacture of any article from this solution. The subject appeared to have been forgotten by the majority. Mr. Macintosh was however long in experimenting upon it, and having at length completed his investigations, and successfully applied the solution to the production of water-proof articles, he applied for a patent for his invention, and shortly after, the valuable articles of dress now possessing a universal celebrity, called after their inventor's name, came into extensive use. From this time a number of minor improvements in the manufacture, and of fresh and important applications of the material, have raised caoutchouc to its present valuable position. To one of the most singular and successful modifications of this material—vulcanized caoutchouc—we shall have presently to advert. This is, however, to be said, that the desirableness of manufacturing waterproof clothing from the fresh milk appears to us still to remain. Although a portion of the offensive odour of the solvent disappears in time, yet mackintoshed articles always retain with obstinacy an unpleasant, and to some an intolerable odour. For our own part, we see no difficulty in establishing a waterproof manufactory on the banks of the Amazon or Maranon. The Americans have set us the example of a successful manufacture of shoes on the spot where the juice can be had fresh, and a very little additional machinery, which might be worked by water-power, would enable them to turn out a beautiful impervious fabric, lighter than the ordinary Macintosh, and entirely destitute of its offensive peculiarities. Mr. Howison's method was to lay a piece of cloth smoothly upon a table, and then pouring the fresh milk upon it, spread it evenly

with a ruler and hang it out to dry. But one of the spreading machines which we have presently to describe, would do the same work far more effectually, and could get through a large quantity in a day. A material thus prepared would of course not fall within the prohibitory limits of any existing patent, for it is as old almost as the discovery of America itself. Cajeput oil has been recommended as a solvent for caoutchouc, but its expense is too great, and were it otherwise, its odour is far from being agreeable.

CUTTING OF THE KOH-I-NOOR.

THIS precious stone, which was the cynosure of the World's Exhibition in 1851, caused some disappointment from the somewhat dim radiance of its lustre. This disappointment suggested the desirability of effecting such alterations in the shape of the diamond as would remove the admitted defects of the oriental cutting. The opinions of various scientific gentlemen were taken, and, some doubts having been expressed to as the possibility of cutting the gem without running a great risk of its destruction, Professor Tennant and Mr. Mitchell were requested to examine and report upon the practicability of the suggested improvement. Those scientific gentlemen accordingly prepared a report, wherein they admitted the improvement which the proposed alteration in shape would effect upon the Koh-i-noor, but expressed fears lest any lateral cutting should endanger its integrity. It was then determined to submit the matter to the opinion of practical lapidaries, and the Crown jewellers (Messrs. Garrard, of

Panton-street, Haymarket) were instructed to obtain a report from competent persons. Those gentlemen thereupon consulted Messrs. M. and G. Coster, of Amsterdam (the diamond-cutting trade having been entirely lost to this country), who, while admitting the accuracy of the fears expressed in the report of Professor Tennant, nevertheless were of opinion that the dangers were not so formidable as to prevent the intended operation from being safely effected. This opinion was sufficiently encouraging to induce an order for the preparation of the requisite machinery to be erected upon the premises of Messrs. Garrard; and, accordingly, a small steam-engine, from two to four-horse power, was erected under the directions of Mr. Joshua Field, of the firm of Maudslay, Field, and Son. The late Duke of Wellington manifested great interest in the precious gem, and attended several times during the progress of the preparations, and was present the first day the engine was put into operation. The Koh-i-noor having been imbedded in lead, with the exception of one small salient angle, intended to be first submitted to the cutting operation, the Duke placed the gem upon the *scaife*, a horizontal wheel, revolving with almost incalculable velocity, whereby the exposed angle was removed by the friction, and the first facet of the new cutting was effected. This step in the operation formed but a small item of the process, as it was expected the work, under the hands of the two Dutch artists to whom it had been intrusted, would occupy a period of some months. The Koh-i-noor was intended to be converted into an oval brilliant, and the two smaller diamonds which accompany it were to be similarly treated as pendants. The original weight of the principal gem was 186 carats, and the process of cutting has not diminished in any material degree its weight, while it has largely increased its value and developed its beauties. Some doubts have been cast by Sir David Brewster upon the identity of the Koh-i-noor, but the general opinion among those best acquainted with the subject appears to be that it was impossible for Dhuleep Singh to have palmed off a fictitious diamond, when the constant habit of wearing it on State occasions must have rendered it perfectly familiar to thousands, who would instantly have detected any attempt at substitution. The more probable assumption is that the weight of the "Mountain of Light" had been somewhat exaggerated. The brief historical sketch of this celebrated diamond is as follows:—The Koh-i-noor was found in the mines of Golconda, and was presented by the Viceroy of the Deccan to the Great Mogul, from whose successors it was taken by Nadir Shah. On the assassination of Nadir Shah it was seized with his treasury by his general, Ahmed Shah, the Abdalee, who took it to his native country, Affghanistan, of which he became the Sovereign. His descendant, Shah Soojah, when obliged to fly his country, took it with him, and, throwing himself upon the protection of Runjeet Singh, was, by a little torture skilfully applied to the mind and body, made to surrender it to his generous host. On Runjeet's death it was inherited by Dhuleep Singh, and on the late revolt and defeat of the Sikhs it was yielded to the British Crown, by special clause in the treaty then concluded.

He is a fool who cannot be angry; he is a wise man who will not.—Old Proverb.

OUT OF ONE'S TIME.

"You will stand then by what you said last week," cried Tom Cowley, to his friend Walter Horsman; "we were bound apprentices on the same day, and our time is to be out on the same day; we are of the same age, of the same business, the same in—"

"Nothing else," interrupted Walter; "never were two people more unlike than you and I."

"Pooh, pooh," cried Tom, impatiently, "we won't talk about that; my question is, will you, as you agreed the other day, stand treat with me in a supper at the Raven, to celebrate our emancipation, as I call it? I have spoken to two or three of our friends, and found them all ready to join us; so now, what have you to say?"

"That I am as agreeable to the proposal as either you or they," returned Walter, "but with the same proviso now as before,—that it shall not cost more than I said."

"Ay, take care of that whatever you do," cried Tom, with pretended gravity; "well, well, it shan't cost more; I give you my word. But why are you so particular? what do a few shillings, more or less, signify on such an occasion? they would not ruin you; it is a thing that can happen but once in our life: you are not in debt, are you?"

"Yes, I am," replied Walter.

"You don't say so," said Tom, fixing his eyes in astonishment upon him; "well, I am surprised; if any one but yourself had told me such a thing, I should have said it was a downright—I shan't say what to you, because I don't think you ever told a falsehood in your life; but how have you managed it?"

Walter smiled.

"My debt is one which I neither am nor wish to be able to discharge; it is a debt I owe to my dear, self-denying mother, but as I can never repay her in full, I have set my mind on purchasing something to remind her of my coming out of my time. A little token of gratitude to her for the past, and an earnest of something better hereafter."

Tom coloured, and attempted a joke by way of concealing that he had received a tacit reproof.

"A sort of payment, by way of instalment," said he, "or a first dividend, with hopes of a second, to be paid with cheques on the wind."

"I hope not," replied Walter, seriously; "the bank on which I shall draw will honour my cheques, or—"

"Then I'll order the supper, and invite the party, shall I?" said Tom, quickly. "If the thing is to come off, let it come off."

Walter gave consent, and all was speedily arranged, to the satisfaction of both parties.

The evening arrived, the guests were assembled, and the supper smoked on the table; the provisions were of the best kind, and youth, health, and a good appetite, made everything appear excellent. When the meal was ended, Tom proposed asking Mr. Holmes, the landlord of the Raven, to take a glass with them, a proposal to which Walter cordially assented, and a message, delivered by the waiter, brought him immediately into the room.

"I should have much pleasure, gentlemen," said he, "in accepting your invitation, if I was not, in a manner, already engaged; you know Mr. Mathews?"

"Who travels for Thompson and Harvey, Bolton?" said Tom.

"The same," replied Mr. Holmes. "He came in about an hour ago. He has had his supper, and has just asked me to finish a bottle of wine with him."

"I'll go and ask him to join us," said Tom, rising, "shall I, Walter? the more the merrier; that will stand good to both parties,—it will be merrier for Mr. Mathews to be with us, and merrier for us to have two such gentlemen as you amongst us."

Mr. Holmes bowed.

"But don't leave the table," said he; "I will speak to Mr. Mathews myself."

He did so, and soon afterwards returned with Mr. Mathews. When both were seated, and the glasses of all filled, Tom rose to give the first toast.

"The Queen, gentlemen," said he, speaking at the top of his voice, "with three times three."

"But shouldn't we drink our late masters' health, first?" cried Walter, "they have been good and kind friends to us, and they are nearer to us than—"

"No, no!" exclaimed Tom, impatiently; "the Queen's health first; she is the head and top of all; there is no flourishing for any one without her. So now, gentlemen, up with your glasses, and astound the old raven with your cheer."

He was punctually obeyed.

"Well done!" said Mr. Holmes, as they all reseated themselves. "My raven never croaked at the name of the Queen, as I am aware of; but if ever he did you may depend upon it, he will never, after this, disgrace himself in such a way again."

A hearty laugh followed; nor was Mr. Holmes the least satisfied of the party with this sally of that wit, which was, as he believed, always at the tip of his tongue.

"Now, Walter," said Tom, "for the health of our late masters, Messrs. Wright and Jackson, with prosperity to the firm. We'll drink this too, gentlemen, if you please, with three times three."

The toast was drunk with animation, as was that which Walter next proposed,—the health of the females of the family they had just quitted.

"Walter never forgets the ladies," said Tom; "he is the politest fellow in the world."

"I don't know for that," returned he, colouring; "but I am quite sure that much of our comfort during the whole time of our apprenticeship, was owing to the ladies in our house; and if good hereafter follows us, much of our success will be owing too to them. For my own part, I shall always think of them with the greatest respect and gratitude."

"So shall I," said Tom; then lowering his voice, he added in an audible whisper to the young man next him, "but they were not quite so kind to me as they were to him."

"I am glad to hear you speak in this manner," said Mr. Mathews, addressing himself to Walter; "it tells well for both parties. I have heard foolish young men use very different expressions on occasions like the present, and I have always considered it as a bad omen. The judicious superintendence of a female, the restraint which her presence imposes, the good manners that she either forms or confirms; the trifling, not to say improper, language which she checks; the home associations which her

maternal conduct serves to keep alive, all act as so many auxiliaries to future well-being, to future success, and to future morality of word and action in a well-disposed young man, and often have a beneficial effect upon others not so steadily inclined. A virtuous woman is in every truth the crowning blessing of a man's life, conferring happiness, and promoting the welfare of all around her."

"There's no gainsaying that," said Mr. Holmes; "but give me leave now to propose a toast,—the health and prosperity of the founders of the feast."

"With all my heart," replied Mr. Mathews, filling his glass.

"And a good fortune and soon," cried one of the company.

Both Tom and Walter felt flattered by the way in which this toast was received, and both returned thanks, the first with confidence, the latter with some degree of painful modesty; the one as a matter of display, the other of grateful necessity.

"That was a sensible amendment of yours," said Tom to the young man who had last spoken. "The fortune that is so long coming that we get old before it arrives, is worth but little after all."

"No, indeed," replied the other, "you may with truth say that; where is the use of sitting a man down to a feast, let it be ever so sumptuous, if he has neither taste left to relish its delicacies, nor teeth to chew them."

"Where, indeed!" cried another; "but that is usually the case. When a man can leave off business, and might enjoy in quiet what he has been labouring to acquire, age or infirmity makes him fit for nothing but to totter on a stick, or sit in his easy chair, pore over the newspaper only to forget the markets as soon as he has read them, or laugh at what his grandchildren are telling him, though he is too deaf to connect two sentences together out of all they are boasting about."

"But you have forgotten the mid-day of life, and its uninterrupted career of business," observed Mr. Mathews; "does no enjoyment, do you think, attend the active course which leads to wealth?"

"Little enough, I suppose," replied the other; "there can be no great enjoyment, one may conclude, in toiling day after day, week after week, and year after year, looking at every penny you spend, always calculating what you can and what you can't afford, and obliged to give up a pleasure, because it is not *quite prudent* to gratify yourself; the slave of other persons, whom, because they are your customers, you are afraid to offend, and for interest say what they say, and profess to think what they think; to get up early and go to bed late; always under restraint, always compelled to self-denial, plenty of work, and little relaxation, no variety—no—"

"Silence," said the chairman; "silence, gentlemen, a song."

The song was sung and loudly applauded; another and another succeeded; and though the style of each was different, all gave pleasure.

"It is now your turn," said Tom, addressing Mr. Mathews, "no one escapes."

"But I am no singer," replied he; "perhaps some gentleman will do me the favour to sing a song for me."

That was declared to be inadmissible.

"I am very sorry," said Tom "but you must either sing, or say, or forfeit."

Mr. Mathews shook his head.

"Say,—I am sure you can," exclaimed Mr. Holmes, turning to him, "I

have listened many a time to your stories, and with more pleasure than ever I listened to any man's songs,—no offence though to the company present."

"A story! a story!" cried several voices at once.

"Not a very long one, though, nor a very sad one," said one; "it is easy to have too much of a good thing, and we are too happy in reality to wish to be made unhappy for nothing."

Mr. Mathews smiled.

"I will do my best to amuse you," said he; "if you get tired, give me a sign, and I will be as silent as that clock, which our host, you perceive, does not allow to strike the hour."

"And quite right, too," said Tom; "where's the use of being put in mind of that which is gone for ever?"

"I think I could give a reply to that question which should satisfy you," returned Mr. Mathews; "but there is a time for all things; and to press serious truths in a convivial party is no proof, in my opinion, either of good, sense or good taste."

"But the story, don't let us lose time," cried one—and he cleared up his own voice, as if he was the person to deliver it.

"It is now about eight years ago," began Mr. Mathews, "that I was spending an evening in just such a party, and on a similar occasion as the present, at a hotel in Norwich. The two young men who are the heroes of my story had been known to me for some years. They were both steady, intelligent, active young men: one perhaps was a little more lively and sanguine in his disposition than the other, but in point of character and talent they were pretty equal. The greatest difference between them lay here: Atkinson was more aspiring than Mitchell, his views were directed to the end, the other's to the means.

"'I will attend to the business,' said Atkinson, 'that I may amass a fortune: my desire is to be rich.'

"'I,' said Mitchell, 'will attend to business that I may support myself, and those who may chance to depend npon me.'

"'I will avail myself of any and every opportunity that may offer itself, in my own way or out of it, which gives reasonable promise of answering the end I aim at.'

"'I will stick to my business,' said the other, 'not till it deserts me, but as long as I can hold by it: unless it casts me adrift, I will never forsake it. If I get rich it shall be by degrees, and, as I may say, in a legitimate manner; wealth with me, if it ever arrives, shall be a result, the consequence of unremitting industry and application.'

"'And you will do as you say,' returned Atkinson, 'or you will be a very different character from what you have been. And so will I do as I have said, and so I tell you frankly that I shan't scruple to bolt in my course if I think it will do me good.'

"Both went to London as journeymen in a principal west-end establishment. Mitchell afterwards returned to the country, and hearing of an opening in a town not far from Norwich, he entered into business for himself. Atkinson remained longer in town; then, following his friend's example, he also came back to his native place, where, after remaining a short time, he was offered a share in a well-established business. He had a pretty property to begin with, which the other had not, and consequently he began life under the more favourable circumstances. Our house supplied both. As long, therefore, as Atkinson remained in business, which was about two years, I saw them twice a year constantly.